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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For PM's, Wednesday, August 9, 1944.

The steady increase in the continental migratory game bird population resulted today in the announcement by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes of liberalized hunting regulations which will govern this season's shooting.

Among the features of the new regulations is the addition of ten days to the open season. The open season this year will last for 80 days.

The general daily bag limit for ducks remains at 10 but hunters may now include redhead and bufflehead ducks in the limit and an additional bag of 5 mallards, widgeons, and pintails, singly or in the aggregate, is allowed.

"The increase in the numbers of mallards, pintails, and widgeons has been notable," Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "and since these are the species mainly concerned with crop damages, the present liberalized bag limit is an effort to so scatter and control these species that agricultural losses may be cut down. It is purely a temporary expedient and the extra bag limit will be permitted only long enough to alleviate the present crop damage situation."

American and red-breasted mergansers have become so numerous as to constitute a menace to fish propagation, consequently the new regulations will permit a bag of 25 of these ducks.

The daily bag limit on geese remains at 2, except that in the Pacific Coast States 4 blue or snow geese, singly or in the aggregate, may be taken. Elsewhere than in the Pacific Coast States 4 blue or snow geese, except snow geese in Idaho, three Montana counties, and on the Atlantic Coast, singly or in the aggregate, may be taken daily.

The 80-day hunting season begins September 20 in the Northern zone, October 14 in the Intermediate zone, and on November 2 in the Southern zone. At the request of State authorities, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Wyoming have been placed in the Intermediate zone.

In Massachusetts and North Dakota the season has been closed on the wood duck. The possession limit for white-winged doves was reduced from 20 to 10 birds.

Adopted by Secretary Ickes in accordance with a law of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the amended regulations were approved by President Roosevelt on July 27. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

Hunting of migratory game birds this year, except geese in Alexander County, Illinois, and white-winged and mourning doves in certain Texas counties, will be from half an hour before sunrise to sunset. Last season in Alexander County, Illinois geese were hunted only from sunrise to noon and this year may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise to noon. In twelve Texas counties the hunting of white-winged and mourning doves will be permitted on 5 afternoons, from 12 o'clock until sunset and thereafter in said counties mourning doves may be taken during the season provided for the Southern zone until December 9.

The regulations do not authorize the taking of waterfowl by means of bait or with the aid of live duck or goose decoys.

Sportsmen will be permitted as last year to retain birds lawfully taken for a period of 45 days following the close of the open season in the State where killed.

#### OPEN SEASONS

No open season is provided on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin and Madison counties in Montana, in Idaho and States bordering the Atlantic Ocean; or on Ross's goose and swans.

The open seasons for wild ducks, geese, and brant are as follows, both dates inclusive:

Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Montana, Ohio (except Pymatuning Reservoir and one quarter of a mile distant in any direction from said Reservoir), South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin, September 20 to December 8.

Ohio on the Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County and one quarter of a mile distant in any direction from said Reservoir, October 14 to January 1.

California (except in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties), Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York (except certain hereinafter designated portions of Essex, Clinton, and Washington Counties) including Long Island, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming, October 14 to January 1.

California, in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, November 2 to January 20.

New York in Essex and Clinton Counties east of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad tracks and that part of Washington County east of the aforesaid

tracks to and including the village of South Bay and all of the waters of South Bay and one mile distant from such water in any direction, September 20 to December 8.

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, November 2 to January 30.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

Alaska, in Fur Districts 1 and 3 as defined in the regulations governing the taking of game in Alaska adopted May 15, 1944 (9 F.R. 5270), September 21 to December 9; in the remainder of Alaska, September 1 to November 19; Provided, That scoters, locally known as sea coots, may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine, and New Hampshire from September 15 to September 19, and in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York including Long Island, and Rhode Island, from September 15 to September 30, and thereafter from land or water during the open seasons for other waterfowl in these States.

Goose.--In Alexander County, Illinois, October 14 to December 12 from one-half hour before sunrise to 12 o'clock noon.

Wood duck.--No open season in Massachusetts and North Dakota.

Rails and gallinules (except coot).--The open season on rails and gallinules (except coot) shall be from September 1 to November 30, both dates inclusive, except as follows:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31.

Louisiana, September 15 to December 15.

Maine, and Wisconsin, September 20 to December 8.

Maryland, September 1 to October 31.

Massachusetts, and New York including Long Island, October 14 to January 1.

Minnesota, September 16 to November 30.

Mississippi, October 15 to December 30.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, no open season.

Woodcock.--The open seasons on woodcock shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

New York, north of the tracks of the main line of the New York Central Railroad extending from Buffalo to Albany and north of the tracks of the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad extending from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, and in Wisconsin, October 1 to October 15.

New York, south of the line described, and in Indiana, and West Virginia, October 16 to October 30.

New Jersey, that part of New York known as Long Island, and Rhode Island, November 1 to November 15.

Arkansas, and Oklahoma, December 1 to December 15.  
Connecticut, October 26 to November 9.  
Delaware, and Maryland, November 15 to November 29.  
Louisiana, and Mississippi, December 15 to December 29.  
Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Vermont, October 10 to  
October 24.  
Massachusetts, October 20 to November 3.  
Michigan, in Upper Peninsula, October 1 to October 15; in remainder  
of State, October 15 to October 29.  
Missouri, November 10 to November 24.  
Pennsylvania, October 14 to October 28.  
Virginia, November 20 to December 4.

Mourning or turtle dove.--The open seasons on mourning or turtle  
dove shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, September 16 to October 15,  
and from December 25 to January 20.  
Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, and Missouri, September 1 to October 24.  
Arkansas, and Mississippi, September 16 to September 30 and from  
December 10 to January 20.  
California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, September  
1 to October 12.  
Delaware, September 16 to November 9.  
Florida, in Dade, Monroe, and Broward Counties, October 1 to  
October 31; in rest of State, November 20 to January 15.  
Idaho, September 1 to September 15.  
Illinois, September 1 to September 30.  
Louisiana, October 15 to October 30 and December 10 to January 20.  
Maryland, September 1 to October 15.  
Minnesota, September 16 to September 30.  
North Carolina, November 25 to January 20.  
Oregon, September 1 to September 15.  
Tennessee, September 16 to November 11.  
Texas, in Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis,  
Williamson, Bell, Falls, McLennan, Hill, Navarro, Henderson, Smith, Gregg and  
Harrison Counties, and all counties north and west thereof, September 1 to  
October 25; in remainder of State, but not including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr,  
Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and  
Willacy Counties, October 20 to December 14. In these latter counties  
September 15, 17, 19, 21 and 24 from 12 o'clock noon until sunset, and there-  
after from October 20 to December 9 from one-half hour before sunrise to sunse  
Virginia, September 16 to October 25.

White-winged dove.--The open seasons on white-winged dove shall be as  
follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, September 1 to September 15.  
Texas, in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit,  
La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties, September 15, 17,  
19, 21 and 24, from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

Band-tailed pigeon.---The open season on band-tailed pigeon shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, Colorado in the drainage of the North Fork of the Gunnison River in Gunnison and Delta Counties and in LaPlata, Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, Archuleta, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties, September 16 to October 15.

New Mexico and Washington, September 16 to October 15.

California, December 1 to December 30.

Oregon, September 1 to September 30.

#### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

On the opening day of the season no person may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limits.

Daily bag limits on ducks (except American and redbreasted mergansers) are 10 in the aggregate of all kinds, including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck, and in addition 5 singly or in the aggregate of mallards, pintails or widgeons. Any person at any time may possess not more than 20 ducks in the aggregate of all kinds (not including American and redbreasted mergansers), but not more than 1 wood duck, and in addition 10 singly or in the aggregate of mallards, pintails or widgeons. American and redbreasted mergansers, 25 singly or in the aggregate.

The daily bag limit on geese and brant is 2 but not including blue, snow or white-fronted geese, and in addition (a) 4 singly or in the aggregate of snow and white-fronted geese in the Pacific Coast States or (b) 4 singly or in the aggregate of blue and snow geese elsewhere than in the Pacific Coast States. Any person may possess not more than 4 geese, including brant, but not including blue, snow, or white-fronted geese and in addition, not more than 8 singly or in the aggregate of blue, snow, or white-fronted geese where such are permitted to be taken.

Rails and gallinules (except sora and coot).---Fifteen in the aggregate of all kinds, and any person may possess not more than fifteen in the aggregate of all kinds.

Coot.---Twenty-five, and any person may possess not more than twenty-five.

Sora.---Twenty-five, and any person may possess not more than twenty-five.

Woodcock.---Four, and any person may possess not more than eight.

Mourning or turtle dove and white-winged dove.---Ten in the aggregate of both kinds, and any person may possess not more than ten mourning doves or more than ten white-winged doves.

Band-tailed pigeon.---Ten, and any person may possess not more than ten.